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LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in the interest of fairness and balance, the text of the concluding remarks by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the facilitator of the Burundi Peace Negotiations (see annex), which, to an extent, seem a subject matter under the letter dated 23 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/816).

It is noteworthy that, while the facilitator did not single out any party, he was obviously distressed at the lack of progress made at the negotiations' fifth committee session.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard T. DOGANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Concluding remarks by the facilitator, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, at the plenary closing meeting of the fifth committee session of 17 July 1999

Greetings, since I know that you are continuing your work and I am leaving for Dar-es-Salaam. Last time, before we left, I expressed great satisfaction for the work we had done during that session. The atmosphere was good and there was a lot of seriousness for the work of negotiations. I expressed satisfaction and the hope that when we met again we would have the same atmosphere and speed up the negotiations. When we met two weeks ago and I received the proposal of the Partenariat (Government) in writing, I thought that now we will really be able to negotiate.

Now I would be less than honest if I did not express my deep dissatisfaction with the amount of work done. We have wasted these two weeks! You have been extremely productive but productive producing communiqués and press releases full of insults. The atmosphere for negotiations has been completely soured, and in some committees no work has taken place at all because some delegations have attempted to block any kind of progress. Last week, when I left for Algiers, I knew from the first day there were difficulties because some delegates decided to use the unfortunate events of violence in Burundi to boycott the negotiations.

I thought that, after expressing our concerns, we would continue with the work. When I spoke about what was going on in Arusha, I spoke extremely optimistically. Even when President Buyoya asked, I told him the same. The excuses given for wasting these two weeks, as well as money, time and hope, was the continued violence in Burundi. We all agreed that continued violence, while we are trying seriously to negotiate, is unacceptable. That is why a year ago we insisted that the Government and the armed groups should agree to suspend hostilities during the whole period of the negotiations. This did not happen, and I have two problems here. This time I will explain this issue in some detail because of the confusion and misinformation concerning this issue of continued violence and disrespect for the commitment you made. We have the problem arising from the parties that did sign the agreement to suspend hostilities. The remaining problem, which we have had for the whole year, is that the Government and its allies have refused to remove the reservations they registered when signing the declaration to suspend hostilities. That is the first problem, of whose who signed. Then we have another problem that is raised as a kind of ritual every time we meet. This is the problem of those parties that were not party to that agreement but are armed groups and the desirability of those groups being brought here so they can participate in these negotiations. And in particular there is the issue of someone called Jean-Bosco. Every time we meet this question of Jean-Bosco comes up. The impression is given that everyone wants Jean-Bosco to come except Mwalimu. This is a lie! I want Jean-Bosco to come. But you know the problem about Jean-Bosco. We have agreed on the rules of procedure and the determination of who takes part in these negotiations is in accordance with those rules. It is in accordance with those rules that any additional participants who are not here

could be agreed upon to participate. I have tried to argue the case of observer participation and I did not get them in.

Jean-Bosco represents a breakaway group from the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD). CNDD is a party to these negotiations. If I simply invite Jean-Bosco to come - to come as what, as a member of CNDD or as a separate group? If he is coming as a member of CNDD it has nothing to do with me. It would be an invitation from his leader Nyangoma. But they are quarrelling. So I myself have made a number of proposals of how we can get Jean-Bosco to come. (1) If he wants to come as a member of CNDD, he can have reconciliation with his leader, Nyangoma. If he has this reconciliation with his leader of course he can come. He can come as part of the delegation of CNDD. If that is not possible, I have made another suggestion. (2) If he wants to come as the leader of CNDD, he should replace Nyangoma in accordance with the constitution of CNDD. If he replaces Nyangoma on the basis of their constitution, I will of course invite him. I invite the authentic leader based on their constitution. (3) My proposal number three is that if proposals 1 and 2 aren't possible, then Jean-Bosco can form his own party, a separate party, which has nothing to do with CNDD. I will invite him, and if Nyangoma and any other group object I would ask them why? I would invite him, but my invitation does not mean he would be automatically accepted. He would still have to be approved by the plenary in accordance with the rules of procedure. But I would put forward the case. If that is not possible we must ask why? The fourth suggestion is that we arrange discrete talks between Jean-Bosco and President Buyoya.

However, it is just possible Jean-Bosco does not want to come to Arusha. There is this ritual. At present this Jean-Bosco is a very important person. I send messages to contact him and he is like the queen of the white ants. It is difficult to reach him. I try to use his brother here to get hold of him. I cannot get hold of him. This young man is extremely important. He is extremely important, and he can also be intelligent. He might ask himself, why should I go to Arusha?

If he comes to Arusha he is simply number 19. He would cease to be extremely important. I am prepared to make a different type of arrangement for him to participate in these talks. I can arrange discrete talks as we did for Buyoya to meet Nyangoma.

So on this issue of Jean-Bosco I have been trying, as a facilitator, to make all of these suggestions to facilitate his attendance here. (1) Reconciliation with Nyangoma; (2) replace Nyangoma in accordance with the constitution of CNDD; (3) to form his own party; and (4) discrete talks with President Buyoya. However, each of these suggestions has been rejected by the Government of Burundi, not by Jean-Bosco. And yet, every time we meet, you say, Mwalimu, you must invite him.

All of these suggestions have been rejected. When I last met Buyoya and mentioned the possibility of arranging these discrete talks he told me he talks to Jean-Bosco. Buyoya, show me that you are talking to him. You (deputy speaker Nzojibwami), talk to your brother. I can't reach him and you talk to him yet somehow you blame the facilitation. Since you go on making these

noises, then make a suggestion as to how we can get your brother Jean-Bosco here. As a facilitator, I have put forward all four of the suggestions and not one of them is being accepted. So give me better suggestions for how we can get this group involved.

Having said that, and admitting the need to involve everybody in these talks and the desirability of getting everyone to participate in these talks, I have emphasized all the time that we should go ahead with the negotiations. To use the absence of some groups, or to use the continued violence as a reason for not negotiating, I do not understand. We are here for the purpose of negotiating so that we can discover a way of bringing peace permanently to Burundi. However regrettable violence is, to use it as an excuse not to negotiate is irresponsible. It is not responsible at all! I still urge that we have no other duty but to continue negotiating seriously. We have wasted these two weeks.

We are coming to the end of this session and I have consulted about the next session, and the suggestion is that we should meet on 6 September. I hope that when we meet we shall really negotiate seriously. If I can get the necessary finances I will want to allow all the time we need until we complete our negotiations. We are too leisurely in these negotiations. We have been going on for a whole year and we still have very little to show. Finances allowing, we should sit and complete our committee work. In the meantime, between now and 6 September, if any committee would want to meet we will arrange a meeting. Also, in the interim between now and September, I will be carrying out consultations to see how we can speed up our work. So when we meet I will have done this.